

A TRIBUTE TO RON LANDPHAIR

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ron Landphair, of Mount Ayr, Iowa for being selected as a member of the Mount Ayr Community School's Hall of Fame.

Ron graduated from Mount Ayr High School in 1968. He received an education degree and returned to his Alma Mater as an industrial arts teacher and assistant wrestling coach in 1980. Known for his building trades and drafting classes, students were tasked with building houses, designing commercial buildings and school additions, and restoring local landmarks.

Mr. Speaker, Ron's dedication to his community embodies the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him, and Iowans like him, in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ron for his achievements and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

HONORING 1ST LT. DONALD GILLEN (RET.)

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Donald Gillen's honorable service to our nation during World War II.

Born April 14, 1927 in Lincoln, Nebraska, Donald graduated from Lincoln High School and joined the U.S. Army on July 26, 1945. Faithfully serving our country at Camp O'Donnell, Philippines from November 1946 until June 1947, Donald was a part of the 12th Philippine Scout Division before becoming a company commander in the 57th Infantry Regiment in Manila.

Becoming a reservist and member of the National Guard, Donald returned home to Lincoln to graduate with a Bachelors Degree in Journalism from the University of Nebraska. He began a new career with the York News-Times in 1969 and eventually became the publisher of the newspaper, retiring in 1988. Husband to his college sweetheart Marilyn Gillen, father to one, and grandfather to four, Donald is known as a family man—moving to Belleville, Illinois to be closer to his child and grandchildren. Today, he is a guest editorial staffer for the Belleville News-Democrat and writes occasional editorials while supporting his wife's singing in the St. George Episcopal Church choir.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service that Donald dutifully gave to our nation during World War II. We are forever grateful for his service.

HONORING DAVID GILL FOR RECEIVING THE 2017 AWARD OF HONOR BY WESTERN GROWERS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my colleague Representative JIMMY PANETTA, rise today to congratulate and honor Mr. David Gill, who was selected by Western Growers to receive the 2017 Award of Honor for his numerous contributions and esteemed leadership in the agriculture industry.

Mr. Gill, a third generation California grower, began his agricultural career at age six by helping his father and grandfather install pipes on their farm. He continued working on his father's ranch while attending California Polytechnic State University. In 1979, he and his brother, Steve, founded Rio Farms in Ventura City. Then, in 1983, they formed Gills Onions and pioneered the first system to deliver peeled, sliced, and diced onions in the food processing industry. It is now the largest onion processor in the United States.

David has routinely advocated to Congress and the state legislature about the agriculture industry's most significant issues regarding labor, water, and regulatory compliance laws. Gills Onions has also focused on reducing their carbon footprint by developing a system that uses the waste from onion processing to generate electricity and eliminate disposal costs.

As Gill Onions and Rio Farms continued to grow, David played an integral role in some of California's largest fresh vegetable companies, including Taylor Farms California Inc., Earthbound Farms, and Church Bros. LLC. In 1987, David and seven farmers formed Growers Express, one of the nation's largest suppliers of fresh vegetables.

In addition to involvement in various business operations, David values a strong emphasis on community involvement and industry organizations. He has generously donated his time in leadership roles with Western Growers, Hartnell College Ag Steering, Grower Shipper Association of Central California, California Farm Bureau Federation, and Produce Marketing Association.

Mr. Speaker, please join us in honoring and recognizing our friend for receiving Western Growers' 2017 Award of Honor. David Gill has provided innovative technology to the agricultural community and he continues to be a leading voice for change in the agriculture industry. God bless him always.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on October 12, 2017, I was not able to cast my votes during the first vote series due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted: YES on Democrat Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2810—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018; YES on Motion on Closing Portions of

the Conference on H.R. 2810—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018; YES on H.R. 2266—Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017, as amended; YES on Motion to Recommit S. 585—Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017; and YES on Passage of S. 585—Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MS. VIRGENE WEBB PETERSON

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to celebrate the life and legacy of one of Clinton County's most distinguished citizens, a woman who devoted her life to the service of others, Ms. Virgene Webb Peterson.

Born in 1924, Ms. Peterson spent nearly all 93 of her years working to improve the lives of her Clinton County neighbors by undertaking one of the most noble of all professions: teaching children. From the onset of her career at Kingman Township School in 1943, to her retirement from Denver Place in 1993, thousands of students passed through her classroom, and each one left motivated by Ms. Peterson's love of learning.

To attempt to quantify Ms. Peterson's impact is impossible. She has inspired generations of engaged citizens with her example of kindness, stewardship, and civic participation. In addition to being one of the longest-serving teachers in the State of Ohio, she volunteered her time and talents to countless organizations including the Leadership Clinton Youth Collaborative, Chester Friends Meeting, the Clinton County Retired Teachers Association, the Ohio Retired Teachers Association, the Mt. Pleasant Grange, Young Mother's Club, Progress Club, and Turning the Corner.

Like a pebble dropped in a pond, the ripples created by Ms. Peterson's life and work are far-reaching. Her legacy will live on in the memories of those who knew her and loved her: her son, Jay, and daughter, Bunny, and their spouses, Cindy and Ed; her grandchildren, Adam, Maggie, Heath, Amanda, and Curt; her great-grandchildren, Owen, Ava, and Aubrie; and the rest of her extended family.

Clinton County is undeniably a better place because of Ms. Virgene Webb Peterson, and I am honored to celebrate her life and legacy.

A TRIBUTE TO JUDY AND GARY NISSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Judy and Gary Nissen of Afton, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Judy and Gary's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our